

Appln. No. 10/615,057
Amdt. Dated July 5, 2006
Reply to Office Action of June 15, 2006

REMARKS

Status of the claims

Claims 1-10 and 15-16 are now pending. Claims 11-14 have been cancelled.

Discussion

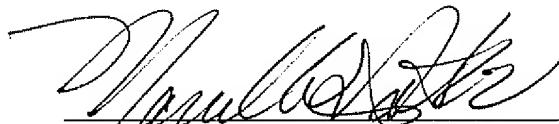
In an Office Action mailed on June 15, 2006, the Examiner restricted Applicants' claims as drawn to independent and distinct inventions. Specifically, the Examiner restricted the claims into two groups, namely Group I consisting of claims 1-10, and Group II consisting of claims 11-14. In response, Applicants hereby formally elect Group I without traverse.

Applicants have cancelled non-elected claims 11-14 without prejudice and reserve the right to prosecute non-elected claims in a later divisional application. New dependent claims 15 and 16 have been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, or otherwise feels it would be advantageous, she is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (713) 238-8043.

Respectfully submitted,



Marcella D. Watkins
Reg. No. 36,962
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.
P. O. Box 3267
Houston, Texas 77253-3267
(713) 238-8080
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT